

Specter (n.) - Definition and Origin

Specter (n.)

spek-ter

A person on the autism spectrum, particularly one who masks heavily and moves through life unseen, misread, or misunderstood.

They blend in. They perform. They survive.

But beneath the surface?

They are carrying the weight of the world - and no one sees it.

They are not broken. They are not dramatic.

They are specters - quiet, complex, and sharp as hell.

Coined by John Stoll in 2025, this term gives language to the often invisible reality of those living on the autism spectrum who are not recognized for their true experience.